

Appl: 10/633,902
Docket: E-001-004
Preliminary Amendment
Date: 10/15/2004

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS:

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (new): A method of altering gaseous flow in a lung, comprising:
locating a site in the lung for creating a collateral channel;
creating the channel in an airway wall of the lung;
temporarily inserting a conduit into channel; and
subsequently removing the conduit.
13. (new): The method of claim 12, where subsequently removing the conduit comprises removing the conduit after the channel heals in an open position.
14. (new): The method of claim 12, where creating the channel comprises creating the channel using a mode selected from the group consisting of radio frequency, ultrasonic energy, a laser, microwave energy, chemicals, and cryo-ablative energy.
15. (new): The method claim 12, where creating the channel comprises creating the collateral channel by using a mechanical process selected from the group comprising dilation, cutting, piercing, and bursting.
16. (new): The method of claim 12, where creating the channel comprises creating the collateral channel by creating an incision to create the channel.
17. (new): The method of claim 16, further comprising dilating the channel.
18. (new): The method of claim 12, where locating the site comprises examining the lung using an imaging method selected from radiography, computer tomography, ultrasound, Doppler, MRI, PET and acoustic imaging.
19. (new): The method of claim 18, where examining the lung comprises examining for areas of collateral ventilation.

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20. (new): The method of claim 18, further comprising adding an agent to the lung to assist in identifying hyperinflation of the lungs.
21. (new): The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a medication to the lung where the medication inhibit the healing process of the lung.
22. (new): The method of claim 12, where the medication comprises a steroid.
23. (new): The method of claim 12, further comprising applying a cyanoacrylate, fibrin or other biocompatible adhesive to the collateral channel.
24. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit comprises a plug.
25. (new): The method of claim 24, where the plug comprises a solid plug.
26. (new): The method of claim 24, where the plug is bioabsorbable.
27. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit comprises a material selected from the group comprising elastomer, polymers, metals, metal alloys, shape memory alloys, shape memory polymers, and any combination thereof.
28. (new): The method of claim 12, further comprising expanding the conduit after insertion into the channel.
29. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit is configured to create the channel.
30. (new): The method of claim 12, where inserting the conduit into the channel comprises placement of the channel within the airway.
31. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit include the a flange or anchors to facilitate placement of the conduit within an airway.
32. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit includes a one-way valve.

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33. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit includes a self cleaning mechanism to clear accumulating debris.
34. (new): The method of claim 12, further comprising inserting a device into the lungs to determine the degree of collateral ventilation in the lung,